

Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas Bhutan 2011

14th - 19th November 2011
Thimphu, Bhutan

Sacred Himalayas for Water, Life and Culture

Other Participants:

Participation is also open to countries with a history of supporting the region, and are keen to contribute to its sustainable development and adaptation to climate change impacts. Likewise institutions and individuals working on climate change, mountain development and environmental issues will be invited.

Date and Venue:

The Summit for Heads of Governments will be convened on the 19th of November in Thimphu, Bhutan. The Summit itself will be preceded by a Ministerial meeting to be convened on the 18th of November.

There will be parallel events and conferences from the 14th to the 19th of November in Thimphu.

Bhutan Climate Summit Secretariat
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Royal Government of Bhutan
Thimphu, Bhutan
Telefax: +975 2 324334
Email: csummit2011@gmail.com

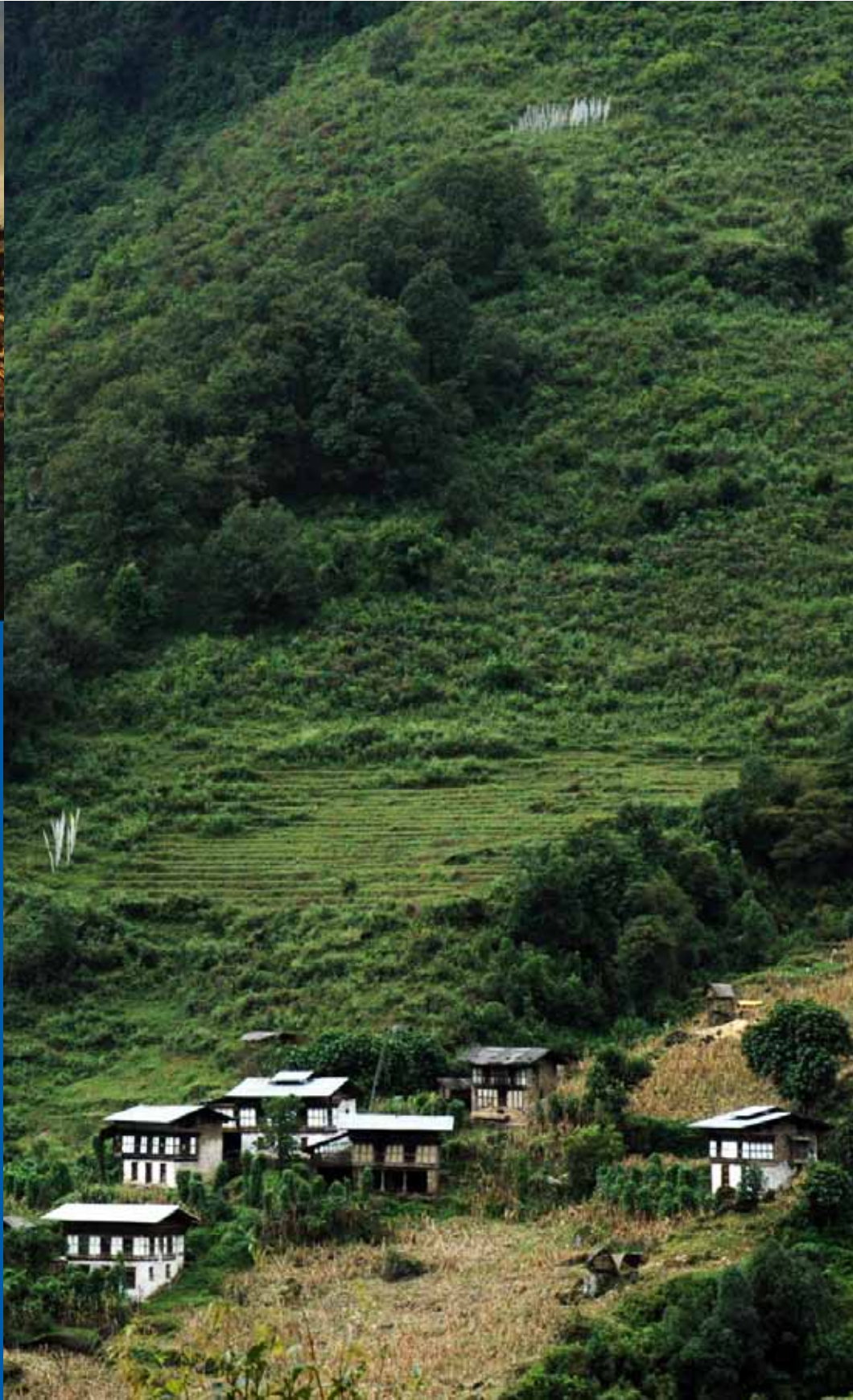
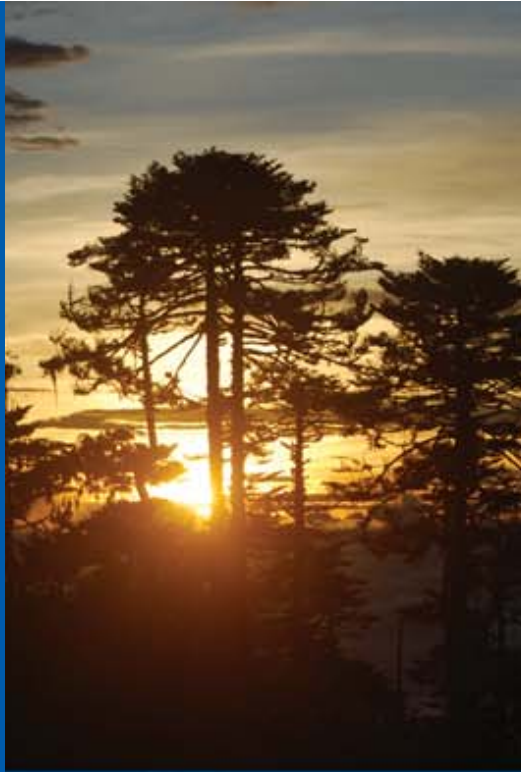
For further information please visit us at:
www.bhutanclimatesummit.org.bt

Supported by:



ICIMOD





Introduction:

It is already established that climate change is happening in the Himalayas. Rapid melting of glaciers, erratic and unpredictable weather, changing rainfall patterns and increasing temperatures impinge on the ability of mountain and downstream populace to sustain their livelihoods. The consequences of such changes on food, water and energy security increasingly feature as the most important concerns for Governments across the Himalayan region. Furthermore, the impacts on biodiversity and species persistence are also of concern.

In the face of Climate Change, there is urgent need for Himalayan nations to build resilience to buffer the impacts of Climate Change and generate resources for adaptation, capacity building, and technology transfer. Such actions can no longer wait for a global agreement.

In the Himalayas where the impacts of global climate are manifesting at a rapid pace, the time for action is running out. Recognizing this, the Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and India have agreed to convene the Bhutan 2011 Climate Summit to:

1. Adopt and endorse a 10-year 'framework of action' for adaptation to climate change in the Eastern Himalaya's sub-region for ensuring food, water and energy security while maintaining biodiversity and eco-system services.
2. Secure pledges from partner countries, institutions and individuals to fund and collaborate in the implementation of the road map.
3. Create and operationalize regional expert groups to advise Governments in implementing the road maps and addressing emerging challenges.

Thematic Concerns:

During the Climate Summit for a Living Himalayas Bhutan 2011, four thematic concerns will be addressed at a sub-regional level in the Himalayas:

1. Securing biodiversity and ensuring its sustainable use;
2. Ensuring food security and livelihoods;
3. Securing the natural freshwater systems of the Himalayas; and
4. Ensuring energy security and enhancing alternate technologies

Within these four key thematic areas, the cross cutting issues related to natural disasters, poverty, gender and vulnerable communities associated with climate change will be addressed. Furthermore, issues related to research, training, technology transfer, collaboration, information sharing and networking will also be discussed within each theme.

Participating Nations:

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal will participate in the Summit. The four partner countries are defined by being on the southern slopes of the eastern Himalayas and bound by shared rivers, history and ecological concerns. While local and national level actions to adapt to climate change need to be strengthened, strategies developed for regions with shared geographic vulnerabilities and commonalities will need to be adopted for action. Such actions while building on national priorities will help build resilience across large geographic spaces ultimately leading to a resilient planet.